

CIA OPERATIONS CENTER

NEWS SERVICE

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(CIA)

WASHINGTON (UPI) - LEGISLATION REQUIRING CIA STATION CHIEFS TO REPORT THEIR ACTIVITIES TO THE U.S. AMBASSADOR WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE TUESDAY.

MANY AMERICAN AMBASSADORS HAVE TESTIFIED TO CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES IN THE PAST THAT CIA STATION CHIEFS IN THE COUNTRIES TO WHICH THEY BOTH WERE ASSIGNED ACTED SO INDEPENDENTLY THEY WERE NOT EVEN INFORMED OF CIA ACTIVITIES THERE; EVEN THOUGH SUCH ACTIVITIES COULD DRAMATICALLY AFFECT THAT NATION'S RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES.

THE LEGISLATION MAKES IT CLEAR THE CIA STATION CHIEFS MUST REPORT WHAT THEY ARE DOING TO THE U.S. AMBASSADOR, OR TOP AMERICAN DIPLOMAT IN HIS ABSENCE, "NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF LAW."

THE ACTION CAME AS AN AMENDMENT TO THE LEGISLATION APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR OPERATION OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT, INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATION AGENCY AND THE BOARD FOR INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTING - WHICH OVERSEES OPERATIONS OF RADIO FREE EUROPE AND RADIO LIBERTY - IN FISCAL 1979.

ACTION ON THE ENTIRE LEGISLATION WAS NOT EXPECTED TO BE CONCLUDED BY THE COMMITTEE UNTIL LATER THIS WEEK.

THE COMMITTEE ALSO APPROVED LEGISLATION REQUIRING THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS AGENCY - WHICH JUST CHANGED ITS NAME APRIL 1 FROM THE U.S. INFORMATION AGENCY - TO CHANGE ITS NAME AGAIN.

IGNORING WRITTEN OBJECTIONS FROM ICA OFFICIALS, THE COMMITTEE SAID THE AGENCY SHOULD CHANGE ITS NAME TO THE AGENCY FOR INFORMATION AND CULTURAL EXCHANGE BY NEXT JANUARY 1.

THE COMMITTEE ALSO APPROVED AN AMENDMENT WHICH LIMITS PASSPORT RESTRICTIONS ON TRAVEL ONLY TO A COUNTRY WITH WHICH THE UNITED STATES IS AT WAR OR WHERE ARMED HOSTILITIES ARE IN PROGRESS.

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